

# Certification issues related to exports - SASO

Solar Keymark Network Meeting  
23 October 2019

- New system
  - KSA introduced new online system for imports (all products): SABER
    - Implementation of SALEEM (Saudi Product Safety Program)
    - System requires SASO Certificates (aka Cert. of Conformity - CoC)
    - After trial in 2018 became mandatory
- Water heaters
  - Process coincided with new SASO standards for water heaters
  - Unclear on how to proceed for water heaters
  - SHE requested for clarifications, changes and transition period
  - Reply from SASO very vague but not leading to changes
  - Only one test lab in EU in SABER

- Main questions raised
  - Information gap
    - Manufacturers and test labs poorly informed
    - Issues with online system
  - Online system
    - Issues with registration
    - Unclear costs
  - Testing requirements
    - Adapting to Saudi climatic conditions
    - Time of validity of test reports

- 08/02/19 – ESTESC meeting: Issue with export to Saudi Arabia: SASO Requirements
- 19/02/19 – Official letter to SASO and the other main stakeholders in Saudi Arabia (MCI, MEIM, SEEC)
- 25/02/19 – ESTESC meeting: Topic rediscussed. Overview from different entities.
- 10/03/19 – Official reply from SASO to SHE
- 18/03/19 – Energy Labelling Expert Group meeting
- 17/04/19 – ST export to KSA: Reacting to SASO
- May-June/19 – Research of a direct contact of someone in charge of ST
- June-September – Innumerable attempts to reach Ing. Ibrahim S. Aljabbari
- September – follow-up and assessing point of situation with different entities (industry, test labs)

- Proposals
  - SASO 2884 standard provision for solar thermal products on-hold
    - allow a revision of the process
    - Extend acceptance of previous SASO CoC for solar thermal
  - Improvement of the current SASO 2884
    - Accept efficiency results certified under SK
    - Accept tests reports from SK (even if TL not in SASO/SABER);
    - Consider EN12975, EN12976 and ISO9459 in SASO 2884 standard;
    - Reduce costs related to SASO/SABER certificate (products/TL)

- Next steps
  - Overview of clear and of open questions
    - Learn from experience so far (manufacturers/test labs)
  - Address new official letter to SASO, requesting (additional) clarifications
    - Consider flanking measures
      - Cooperation with other regions
      - Other leverage options with KSA

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